

THE NATIONAL REGISTER.

No. 26. Vol. III.]

WASHINGTON, JUNE 28, 1817.

[Vol. I. for 1817.]

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY, BY JOEL K. MERRILL, AT FIVE DOLLARS PER ANNUM.

RILEY'S NARRATIVE.

We have lately read with no small degree of interest, the Narrative which captain Riley has published of the shipwreck of the brig Commerce, which he commanded, on the western coast of Africa, in the month of August, 1815, and of the captivity of himself and crew by the wandering Arabs of the desert.

The sufferings which they underwent were undoubtedly very great; but not greater we think than what have been often experienced by Americans and others who have fallen into the hands of the Indians on this continent. There is more of novelty, it is true, in the one case than in the other, because the scene is more distant, and the objects less familiar; and moreover, there is something romantic attached to the ideas of Arabian life and manners.

The story is made up of incidents, such as are natural to a state of servitude. Thrown, in the first instance, on a rude and uninhabited shore, near cape Bajador, captain Riley fell into the hands of about half a dozen barbarous and merciless beings, who robbed him of money and clothes, and from whom he saved himself only by a dexterous stratagem in which he sacrificed the life of a poor old Frenchman, and by great personal exertion. Poor Antonio's confidence in the captain's invitation to him to go on shore from the wreck, merited a better fate; and nothing but the strong, and perhaps imperious, duty of self-preservation, can, in our opinion, exculpate captain Riley in this instance, from the imputation of great inhumanity. Escaping from the shore to the wreck, the captain and crew embarked in their boat, with a view of reaching some of the islands lying off the coast of Africa; but in this they were frustrated; and, eventually cast back upon a different part of the same coast, they were, on the plains of the great African desert, seized and made slaves of by a band of wandering Arabs who happened to encounter them. The crew were divided among different masters and separated; but captain Riley and several of his companions were in the end purchased by two trading Arabs who had come from the borders of Barbary, and who conveyed them, for the sake of gain, and at a price agreed upon, to the vicinity of Mogadore, where he and his companions were promptly redeemed by the interference of a generous hearted Englishman of the name of Willshire. May his name be forever venerated by the humane and benevolent of every clime!

VOL. III.

The circumstances of captain Riley's journey across a part of the desert are rather meagre, but interesting from their singularity. In this the Narrative is a little more wire-drawn than Othello's tale—

"Of being taken by the barbarous foe

"And sold to slavery—

"Of his redemption thence;

"And with it all his travel's history."

The party travelled on camels, lived mostly on the milk of that extraordinary animal, (of which, in the sequel, captain Riley gives a particular description,) and are often on the point of dying of hunger and thirst.

The Arabs of the great desert, it would seem, are essentially savages. Abstemious from necessity, passionate from the want of early restraint, brave from the dangers which environ them, tyrannical to their women, prone to robbery by their very limited notions of exclusive property, acquainted with the use of fire arms, wandering by compulsion from the dryness and sterility of the desert on which they rove, and which compels them from time to time to change their encampments, superstitious from the ignorance in which they are involved, sagacious from the continual exercise of their faculties, so necessary for their preservation, and disdaining civilized life, the Arabs described by captain Riley appear to us as nothing more than a species of Indians, differing from the savage tribes which are found in this hemisphere chiefly by a warmer climate and a drier air, and secured in a greater degree than these from subjugation by the peculiar nature of the land which they inhabit, which puts at defiance an invading force, that would inevitably perish amid the parched surface or rolling sands which distinguish that portion of our globe.

Returning homewards, captain Riley diverts and disgusts us by the pictures which he presents of the Moors and Jews of Barbary. They appear to be sunk to the lowest state of moral depravity, and are only preserved from utter contempt by a strong spice of courage—that great virtue, which has so often redeemed nations as well as individuals from the debasing effects of the most shocking licentiousness.

In the latter part of the work the captain presents the reader with a curious dissertation on the various leading currents of the ocean, which on the whole, granting all the facts, is not so solid as it is ingenious. But it is well worth the philosopher's attention; as are many of the other speculative parts of this writer's narrative.

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We cannot take leave of the book before us, without briefly expressing a thought or two upon what captain Riley is pleased to term a *special Providence*, which he seems to think was interposed in his favor. Like all men who are reduced to great hardships, every little incident that tends to alleviate them is considered as an act of specific Grace, and miracles are then perceptible at every step. It is thus with every man who escapes from misfortunes; the points of gradual deliverance from them are strongly impressed upon his senses; and, too much agitated to mark, as they occur, the natural causes that produce them, he attributes them, in succession, to a special act of the Deity. That man must be deranged who denies the Providence of God. It is as palpable as the bread we eat: But

—“The great First Cause
“Acts not by partial, but by general laws.”

This is perceptible in all the moral and physical laws of the Universe. What, then, preserved captain Riley and those who escaped with him? We answer, a sound and strong constitution and a powerful intellect, derived by him, it is true, from the Deity, but through the operations of nature. These were the means of preservation which enabled him to escape death at the scene of shipwreck, and slavery on the Great Desert. The one enabled him to bear great fatigues, to cherish and support his feeble companions: the other led him to perceive that, in the heart of an Arab as well as in that of a christian, *interest*, or the *desire of gain*, is a predominant passion: It was this passion which he excited when he gained delay from the old man near Cape Bajador, and when he induced Sidi Hamet to purchase and convey him and his fellow sufferers to Mogadore. Is it not revolting to the feelings of humanity, when the writer of the work in question interprets into a special act of Providence in his favor, that “a Spanish barque had been destroyed by the natives on the coast of Suse, north of Cape Nun, and *nineteen men* had been either *massacred by the natives, or were groaning out a miserable existence in the worst kind of barbarian slavery*—which event alone had furnished a piece of paper on which he wrote the note, at a venture, *TO MOGADORE!!!*” As if God Almighty had caused nineteen men to be cruelly murdered or enslaved, to furnish captain Riley with a piece of paper on which to write a letter; when, doubtless, a skin of some sort, or other substitutes for the purpose, might have been readily found!!

The volume, on many accounts, is well worth a perusal; although some persons have considered many parts of the Narrative as bordering on the marvellous. We do not see, however, any good

reason for disputing the veracity of the author, whose intellectual powers are obviously far above mediocrity.

FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER.

—To be thus is nothing;

But to be safely thus!

Macbeth.

I have frequently contemplated with emotions of astonishment and regret, the lavish exultation and proud complacency with which our fellow-citizens of the United States dwell upon the prosperous condition of the republic, as it now stands, while they scarcely throw away a thought upon its future destinies; or, if they do think of the subject at all, seem insensible to the dangers which already threaten to beset it, and regard with an indifference hard to be accounted for, the momentous, indeed awful question of its eventual durability or decay. Luxuriating in the charms of freedom, independence, plenty, even to abundance, and the consciousness of a state of earthly felicity before unknown and scarcely imagined—they dance and pipe, and run in the ring of enjoyment, even to satiety, filled with confidence almost puerile, and puffed up in as perfect security of the permanence of the blessings they now enjoy as if along with them Providence had vouchsafed to this republic, a privilege denied to all sublunary things, and granted it an exemption from the conditions and casualties annexed to every tenure on this side of eternity—from the ravages of human vice, from the encroachment of accident, and from the outrages of time.—With an apathy which nothing but short-sighted ignorance, or the intoxication so often consequent to extreme prosperity, could redeem from sentence of guilt, they look heedlessly on, while the seeds of downfall, long sown in our social habits are springing around them, and growing up with baleful luxuriance in the rising manners and ruling principles of the times. The history of the world lying open before them, where they may see written the sad, but inevitable fate of all past nations, they shut their eyes against the instruction it contains, and while it proclaims in one uniform, unabating tone of language, that luxury is the fatal gulf in which the most proud and prosperous nations of the earth have terminated their career, and from which not one that it had ever grasped, was afterwards safely extricated, they gallop forward in that course with the blind ardor of youthful infatuation, every day advance nearer and nearer to the verge of the abyss, and must ere long, if not arrested in their progress, reach that point where the intensity of the attraction being too powerful for human resistance, they will be dragged along by

it, and, together with their republic, sink as all others have done, into irremediable destruction.

That the greatest calamity which can befall a nation is the introduction of luxury among its people, especially when it becomes general and is carried to such a length that individuals either must live beyond their means or incur the censure of meanness; and that its consequences are peculiarly dangerous to republics, has been so fully and frequently demonstrated by the experience of ages, that one might reasonably suppose few were so ignorant as not to understand the fact. Yet, the manners of the times encounter that supposition. An eager pursuit of every emasculating indulgence, every degrading vanity—an overweening covetousness of money to be lavished in saucy aristocratic parade, insolent state-liness, ostentatious finery and splendor, and sensual gratification, have fastened like a deadly epidemic not only on those wealthier persons of pride and fashion, who give the tone to our general manners, but on the inferior tribes—their servile imitators, who without property to support, ape their vanity, and at the expense of the domestic comforts, their family's food, and the pockets of those who trust them, follow their bad example, increasing by their numbers the mass of the contagion, and poisoning, by their example again, the manners and principles of those below them, down even to the negro slave, where the plague stops only for want of a subject of a subordinate condition to be acted upon. This certainly indicates a total forgetfulness of all that had been taught upon the subject, or else an entire and radical ignorance of man and his history. It therefore becomes the duty of those who assume the superintendence of the moral and political press, to interpose in time, and, if possible, rouse the people to a sense of the danger, and to a recollection of those historical facts which, as they bear upon this momentous concern, ought to be placed prominently in the general view, in order the more effectually to serve as a beacon to warn off the thoughtless and unsuspecting.

With this view I propose to offer you for publication in your valuable paper, some remarks from time to time, which though neglected by the sluggish mopes of fashion, derided by the obstinate devotees of vanity and vice, sneered at by the fair slaves of the toilet, and cursed as an illiberal bore by the swaggering intemperate coxcombs of the land—though they should be hooted by the whole body of tailors, milliners, and mantua-makers—railed at by the formidable corps of liquor venders, keepers of taverns, billiard tables and brothels—and in short, anathematized by the whole tribe who feed and fatten on the vices, follies, sensuality, vanity and luxury of the up-

started monied aristocracy of the union, and their more contemptible imitators, will receive the assent and approbation of all the wise, the well informed, and the virtuous men who read them.

I am aware that in the course of my intended lucubrations, I shall run the risk of hurting the feelings of some, and of clashing violently with the prepossessions of others: that I shall have to contend with the vanity and self-love of the far greater part of your readers, and above all, with that convenient creed which, for want of a better, the disciples of fashion and sensuality, high and low, have borrowed from the Epicureans, so well expressed by the most brilliant member of the sect, Horace:

*Sapias: vina liques, et spatio brevi
Spem longam reseces: dum loquimur, fugerit invida
Eetas: carpe Diem, quam minimam credula pos-
turo.*

So says the favorite of Mæcenas, and the adulator of Octavius,* a moral sentiment which Gay puts, but in less elegant terms, into the mouth of his highwayman hero Macheath. I shall not, however, be deterred by such obstructions. I am not one of those bland reformers, who, like Pope's courtly Dean, "never mention hell to ears polite." Nay, I think that by so much the more acutely as my observations shall be felt, by so much the more evident will appear the propriety of urging them, and the more efficacious too, will be their operation. In such cases severity is mercy.—When, not merely the cause of virtue and domestic morality, but the security and permanence of the happiest state of things that ever fell to the lot of man on this globe, are at stake, playing with the evil, or jesting, would be criminal. To raise a laugh when an alarm ought to be rung, and when tears ought to be extorted from mischievous folly and vice, would, indeed, be *ludere cum sacris*. No: they must be held up as objects of reprobation and scorn, in terror to others. "To laugh even at fools," says a distinguished modern critic and poet, "is superfluous; if they understand you, they will join in the merriment—but more commonly they will sit with vacant unconcern, and gaze at their own pictures. To laugh at the vicious is to encourage them; for there is in such men a wilfulness of disposition which prompts them to bear up against a shame, and to show how little they regard slight reproof, by becoming more audacious in baseness. Goodness, of which the characteristic is modesty, may, I fear, be ashamed; but vice, like folly, to be restrained, must be overawed."

In the course of my remarks, I intend to adduce historical evidence to demonstrate that luxury

* It is a well known fact that sir William Jones could not patiently endure to hear the epithet of Augustus prostituted in the appropriation of it to this unprincipled and mean character.

has been the common cause, without a single exception to the contrary, of the fall of all the republics but those of Switzerland, with this singular additional proof to warrant my conclusion, namely, that the Helvetic Republics were the only ones that were constitutionally guarded against luxury by severe sumptuary laws. The republics of Greece and Rome, present cases in point; they had no checks upon luxury, and therefore they fell. Even the superior wisdom of the British institutions has not been able to save that country from the blighting influence of luxury; and, what is very extraordinary, and would seem to reduce us, as intelligent beings, almost to a level with the moth that flutters about the candle-flame till it burns itself to death, or to the bird which, while it screams with horror at the snake, yields itself up to its fascination, and flies into its deadly jaws, is that we amuse ourselves with comments and sarcastic remarks upon the deplorable state of England, and the inevitability of her fall—that we deride the luxury and parade of her nobles, and insult the extravagance and sensuality of her chief magistrate, without seeming once to reflect that, reckoning the existence of her constitution from the date of *Magna Charta*, she has been more than six hundred years reaching the point of luxury at which she now stands, and which unfortunately we have nearly attained in the thirty-sixth year of our national existence.

LUCILIUS.

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.

[Continued from page 385.]

(C.)

Answer of Dr. Samuel L. Mitchell to the Commissioner of the Revenue, on a method of equalizing the duty upon the distillation of ardent spirits.

SIR—I have the honor of laying before you such reflections as have occurred to me upon the resolution of the house of representatives, passed 9th March, 1816, requiring a report to be made, whether any, and, if any, what alterations are necessary, to equalize the duty on the capacity of stills, boilers, and other implements used in distillation.

Considering the difficulties which, in our free country, oppose themselves to the strict examination of distilleries, when in operation, by revenue officers; and contemplating the numberless tricks by which fair dealing is evaded; I should almost be inclined to advise a discontinuance of the duty. Whatever may be said against the immorality arising from the intemperate and excessive use of distilled spirits, it must be owned that the false swearing and deceptions growing out of a system of excise, add greatly to its amount.

But the policy of laying a duty on distilled spirits, being not referred to my consideration, I pass it by. The measure having been adopted, and being now actually in force, it is my business to aid you in the best way I can, to render it efficacious.

In executing the undertaking I have availed myself of all the information within my reach; such as experiments on distillation by various sorts of apparatus; the different modes of working; the several materials employed; the information derived from skilful and practical men; and the expedients heretofore used to obtain from each distillery a revenue proportioned to the amount and condition of the spirits distilled. And to render my judgment as correct as possible, in an affair of so much intricacy, I have made trials of my own, as far as I deemed them necessary within the term allotted me.

The present inquiry I consider as limited to an excise on the productions of spirits, and not on their consumption. I suppose also, that I am expected to treat it strictly as a matter of revenue. Other considerations naturally growing out of the subject, as a great article of domestic economy, will therefore be spared.

The main object of a duty upon ardent spirits in the process of preparation, is to derive a revenue for the treasury from the citizens who pay money to the government for licenses to carry it on.

There would be little or no fiscal difficulty in the case, if the operators would consent to: the only mode that exists of ascertaining the matter with precision; that is, by allowing the revenue officer to determine the quantity and quality of the product at the distillery. But as this rule, the fair and just one for the public and the individual, is rejected, it becomes necessary to devise a substitute for it; or contrive some project that shall answer the purpose of ascertaining tolerably well between the parties, how much the distiller shall give, and how much the sovereign receive for the privilege of converting the raw material into alcohol.

In such a state of the question, after all that can be done in the investigation, there will probably remain grounds or pretexts for complaint. It must be remembered, however, that discontent is natural to man; and the expression of that discontent may be considered as affecting to a considerable degree its own cure. The paradox contains sound remark which says, "if human beings were incapable of rendering themselves miserable, they would not be happy." If the government, therefore, in any case, can be satisfied that the law it enacts is substantially right and good, the little murmuring that may exist may be contemplated as the remedy for the imagined uneasiness or pain.

The intention of the government being thus simply to derive revenue from the process of distillation, there are several stages at which the eye of its agents may watch the operation and levy the tribute.

I shall begin by an explanation of the following points, in regular succession:

1. To lay the duty upon the raw material.
2. To lay it upon the process of fermentation.
3. To lay it upon the process of distillation.
4. To lay it upon the distilled product itself.

Each of these subjects will be separately considered.

It may, at first view, seem a departure from the matter referred, to consider any thing other than the capacities of stills, boilers, and other implements used in distillation. But when I reflect that revenue is the desideratum, it is believed to be an allowable digression to notice the raw material,

for the purpose of examining whether the duty ought not to be laid upon it, as well as for the purpose of introducing, more intelligibly, the subsequent part of this report.

I. Concerning the imposition of a duty upon the raw materials intended to be employed in distillation.

An individual may contract with the government, or its agents, for leave to convert an assigned quantity of crude article into as much spirit as he is capable of extracting from it. If the government requires that he shall buy a permit for it, the citizen may be obliged, by law, to pay for the privilege in the manner and to the amount prescribed or pay a penalty. To distil without a license is now an offence; so it would then be to extract spirit from a raw material without having paid for leave. The difficulty in the execution of such a law would principally arise from the abuse the distiller might make of his licence, by distilling more than he pays for. As a preventive of this, the sanction of an oath may be required that he will not transgress the limits of his licence. This will restrain conscientious men. He may be required to enter into a bond with a penalty, subjecting him to damages and costs, in case of a violation of its conditions. He should, moreover, be compelled to report, in writing, and file with the collector at the same time, the capacity, number, and situation of his stills and implements; as also the place where they are erected, the quantity of fuel they consume, and the number of hands they employ. This would serve as collateral or auxiliary evidence. The law may provide that the collector of each district shall possess all this information, to the end that he may be enabled to form a more correct judgment, and know how to detect violations.

The distiller may be watched, and be as much exposed to detection as in the present mode. It would be a circumstance in favor of the revenue, that there should be at the collector's office, an exhibition of the quantity intended to be distilled, as well as of the apparatus to be employed in the operation. Upon this plan the distiller would be licensed to work upon an acknowledged and specified quantity of materials. On these the government would impose a corresponding sum. Against transgressions and infractions, the same precautions might be employed as at present. It might be expected that some persons of selfish and avaricious dispositions and immoral habits, would exceed the bounds of their permits. With the ready means of detection it may be presumed, that these occurrences would not be very numerous, and, consequently, the defalcations not very serious. *De minimis non curat lex*, say the lawyers; and if the treasury derives a good revenue from the tax on preparing ardent spirit, I would not be over anxious, in a country like our own, about trifling variations. They might not be seen or not noticed.

On this view of the subject, the law might require that each distiller should state the quantity and kind of the materials he meant to employ for the purpose of extracting spirit, and that he should purchase a license from the revenue officer accordingly. The mode of grinding, fermenting, working, and preparing the materials might be left, afterwards, to his own skill and discretion. If by extraordinary success in his operations, he should procure much spirit, *pro rata*, from his ingredients, let him, at least, for the present, enjoy

the benefit of his discoveries. An improved plan of arranging the fiscal as well as the economical details, might be reasonably expected to arise, in due time, from careful and reiterated sets of experiments. The government, by making discreet and reasonable inquiry, would acquire and enjoy the ultimate advantage of them.

A mode of laying such a duty might be conceived thus:

A. Upon domestic materials.

(a) (Grain.) Rye, ——— cents the bushel of ——— lbs.

Maize, ——— cents the bushel of ——— lbs.

Rice, barley, or other grain, ——— cents the bushel of ——— lbs.

(b) Fruit, or its products.

Pomace or cider, ——— cents the gallon.

Mash of peaches, ——— cents the gallon.

Blackberries, gooseberries, or other fruits ——— cents the gallon of bruised pulp.

(c) Roots and their parts. Potatoes, ——— cents the bushel. Other roots, ——— cents the bushel.

(d) Saccharine juices, or sweets.

Domestic molasses, or sugar cane, grown within the United States, ——— cents the gallon.

Syrup, or juice of the maple, ——— cents the gallon.

Juice of green maize, or other vegetables, ——— cents the gallon.

B. Upon foreign materials.

An increased rate of duty whenever they come under either of the preceding heads, of thirty per cent. on the existing ratio.

The possession, by a distiller, of materials proper for distillation, other than his own crop, to be considered as *prima facie* evidence of an intention to distil them; but the possessor may show they were otherwise employed. The possession of a still or distilling apparatus, to be presumptive evidence of an intention to distil, until the contrary shall be shown. The license may authorize the purchaser to distil as many bushels of grain, as many gallons of pomace or cider, as great a quantity of roots, or as much sweet or saccharine juice as shall be therein expressed. Care might be taken to make him pay for a maximum; and he may be afterwards checked by the capacity of the still and the duration for which it is employed.

Upon this plan, it appears to me, that a certain revenue can be laid and collected. The bulk of the materials would be adverse to concealment. There would be no espionage to offend the citizen by penetrating too deeply into his private affairs.

II. Concerning the imposition of a duty upon the process of fermentation, when intended to prepare substances for eliciting distilled spirit.

After the grain shall have been ground to meal, the fruits crushed to pomace, the roots reduced to pulp, and the saccharine substance diluted in water—they all, after the extinction of their vital principle, and when mingled with a due proportion of humidity, and, likewise, moved by a proper degree of caloric or anticrouon, commence a train of intestine actions, called fermentation. In the course of these commotions among the particles of the fermenting material, its original constitution is further destroyed or changed, and new products are formed. Among these is a vinous liquid, which, by the seasonable application of an

increased and boiling heat, may be converted into alcohol.

The vats or tubs in which the fermentation is carried on, may be made the measure of the duty on the spirit the fermenting mass is estimated to contain or afford. Their capacity, like that of the stills, may be ascertained by gauging. The fermentation may thus be made to furnish a rule whereby the amount of duty shall be calculated. The batch of beer, wort, or wash, be excised; or rather, the future spirit will be duties in the batch.

III. Concerning the laying a duty upon the process of distilling ardent spirit.

This is the operation whereby a vinous fluid is changed into alcohol. The liquid is readily volatilized or turned to vapor. It has, therefore, been called a spirit or aerial thing. Being readily inflammable, it is termed ardent spirit. As one of its remarkable effects on the human constitution, when applied to the olfactory organ, or to the inner coat of the stomach, is to produce drunkenness, it has been distinguished as intoxicating or inebriating spirit. And inasmuch as it has usually been prepared by that sort of alembic called the still, it has been known by the name of distilled spirit. This conversion takes place in consequence of new chemical affinities among the constituent parts or particles of the material or thing distilled. If it remained in the vat or tub in the ordinary temperature, the vinous would change to acetous; or, in other terms, the wine would turn to vinegar. By being exposed to a higher and quicker heat, the fermentation is suddenly stopped, and a new product formed by the change of the vinous matter to spirituous; or by a conversion of wine to alcohol.

In laying the duty upon this process of conversion, the capacity of the alembic, whether still, boiler, or any other vessel has been considered by some as affording the best rule or criterion by which the product could be judged.

I remember very well the difficulty which had arisen on this method of estimating the price of a license before the year 1802. Some of the distillers had discovered new and improved ways of working; by which they were running off greater quantities of spirit than had ever been practised. They who adopted these improvements, actually procured unusual quantities of alcoholic fluid, through stills of very moderate capacities, in a surprising short time. This was effected chiefly by the construction of the distillatory vessels.—They had broad bottoms; with an extensive surface for exposure to the fire. They had low heads; so that the vapour had but a short distance to rise. The heads were capacious; enabling the condensation to be performed there and within them.—Such condensation altered the capacity of the spirit to contain caloric. While in the vaporous state the spirit contained a large proportion of caloric. On condensing the liquid, its capacity for caloric was so much diminished that a great deal was left for absorption by the surrounding bodies.—To receive this disengaged and abundant caloric, the distiller had aptly contrived to surround the head of his still with water, or by the fermenting liquid of the vat. If water was employed, it became heated by this admirable piece of economy, to a degree fit to answer the purpose of macerating and fermenting the raw material in the tubs, or vats. If the wort, beer, or fermented mass was made to encircle or surround the head of the still,

that wort, beer, or fermented material itself became heated and prepared the better to be received into the body of the still. While condensation of vapour is going on within the head, the spirit so brought to a liquid state on its inner surface, was received as it trickled down, into a sort of canal, trough, or gutter near the neck of the still, and carried through the worm to the extremity of the tube to be drawn off. By this contrivance the liquid spirit condensed in the head was collected within the neck; and instead of falling back into the body of the still to be elevated by force of fire, anew, was fairly carried off, very economically, at once.

For certain facts and proceedings relative to distillation, I refer to the report of the committee of ways and means, for 1802, as it is recorded substantially in the 6th volume of the Medical Repository, p. 208, and to the 8th volume of the same work, p. 148, 164, for a review of Krafft's American distiller. In the former of these, the quantity actually distilled is considered the only sure test; and in the latter, it is shown how a still of small capacity may produce a great quantity of spirit.

The advantages derived from the new mode of constructing stills, rendered the duty then in force upon their capacities so unequal and inefficient, that an immediate remedy was demanded. Some progress had been made in devising a legislative expedient by the proper authorities, when it was determined by congress that the internal taxes should be repealed. The act, the moment it took place, superseded all further attempts to raise money for the treasury, by a duty on distillation.—This subject was dismissed from the investigation of our political economists. But the invention of distillers was as active and busy as ever. Persevering in their efforts, they went on, adding one improvement to another, until they have facilitated and cheapened the process of distillation and the art of procuring ardent spirit from the crude material almost as much as is practicable.

At length, after so many amendments in the distilling apparatus, and so many alterations in the distilling process, the government once more came forward and demanded of the distillers payment for the privilege of converting vinous liquor into alcohol.

The difficulties in the way of laying the duties in an equitable manner, would be very much diminished, if all the stills and apparatus for distillation were constructed upon one and an uniform plan; and all of them worked, as then they would be, by a similar and corresponding process.

These inequalities may be referred to four principal heads:

1. Of stills constructed upon the old plan.
2. Of stills constructed not exactly upon the old plan, and yet not upon the best modern improvement.
3. Boilers, or a distilling apparatus worked by aid of steam, or boiling vapour.
4. Of other modern contrivances, such as log-stills, rectifying vats, and some other utensils not belonging strictly to either of the former descriptions.

I consider some of these as inferior modes of distillation. Consequently a high duty laid upon the capacity of such, according to the rates of the most improved stills, would bear heavily and unequally. It must check the progress of distillation by forcing a number of the distillers to stop.—For the man who used the most improved still, and

performed three times as much work, paid no more duty than his neighbor who distilled only a third upon the same tax. The enemy of distilled spirits has no cause for exulting on this event—The deficiency of domestic liquors was made up by importations from foreign places. Rum has been brought from the West-Indies to supply the want of whiskey. A policy in the British colonies favorable to distilling for exportation furnished the spirit drinkers among ourselves with as much as they desired.

Congress, if I rightly understand their statute on the subject, make the capacity of the still the rule whereby the duty is laid and collected.

The acknowledged inequality of this rule is not very easy to correct. There are stills constructed in the old way, with contracted bottoms, enlarged bellies, long necks, and high small heads. Some of these have been erected at great expense. The proprietors do not incline to pull them down and erect modern stills in their stead. But they persevere in working them under all the comparative disadvantages. In many instances these distilleries, with their fixtures and apparatus, are let or leased to other persons. It cannot be expected that a short lessee, or temporary tenant, will cause expensive alterations to be made, which the landlord or proprietor himself would not authorize or undertake. The person who occupies such a distillery, works the existing apparatus in the best way he can. But if he pays the duty on the capacity, at the rate required for improved and modern stills, he pays, proportionally, perhaps a double duty and more. It has been said this inconvenience is chargeable to the ignorance and obstinacy of the owner or his lessee, who might change the form of their stills, and put themselves on a footing with their neighbors. So they might, and of right they ought to do so.

It is not wholly conformable to our usages to direct individuals how to conduct their private concerns. Yet, in the materials, and sometimes in the manner and place of constructing houses; in the execution and registry of deeds, mortgages, and wills; in the navigation of ships; in the importation of merchandize; and many other cases, the legislature, beneficially, interferes and directs. So, in the present instance, the government might, upon considerations of the soundest policy, refuse altogether to grant licenses to those old-fashioned stills. It might be declared that licenses should be granted to stills on Anderson's, or Parsons' construction, or any preferred one which the treasury should choose. This would stop all the others, and compel the present complaining owners and possessors to model them anew, conformably to the provisions of law.

Such a regulation might seem to border rather more upon the imperative than could be wished. In reality, I believe it would be found far less inconvenient than at first sight it appears. Already the old stills are a sort of depreciated property. In the progress of improvement their value must suffer a further diminution. A distiller, whether he owns the establishment he works, or hires it of his neighbor, will reasonably wish to pursue his business in the improved and modern way. A distillery upon the improved plan is worth more money to the proprietor, even if he works it himself. It will bring more rent if he lets it to another. Therefore, the alteration necessary to bring the old-fashioned still to the modern standard of excellence, though expensive in the first instance,

will in the end be substantially better both for the owner and occupant. The improvement will enable him to do more business. His work will be performed in an easier and better manner. The practical result from the whole, is, that the new fixtures and apparatus being made to conform to the new principles of distillation, the inequality arising from unequal quantities distilled in different distilleries, under the same duties, will be wholly done away, or reduced to a trifling variation.

Such a regulation of stills I conceive to be a constitutional power. My experiments and observations convince me it is necessary to render them as uniform as possible, that the duty may also be equalized as nearly as practicable. There is no expedient within my knowledge, that promises so fair and equal a result. It ought to be required of all distillers to comply with the rule; and all will then be upon equal terms. But while a marked difference exists in the construction and working of the distilling apparatus, I question very much whether any rule can be found that will apply to them all. At least, I must own, that the experiments whence such a regulation can be deduced, are not within the circle of my knowledge.

In this case, the alleged inconvenience to the citizen, will be pronounced by the liberal and patriotic statesman, as one to which he ought to submit for the public good. It is obligatory on him to comply, and cheerfully too, with so reasonable a requisition. No man is obliged to distil ardent spirit. They who embark in the business are bound by the feelings of respect to the government, and of obedience to its wise and wholesome laws, to comply with a rule so practicable and so useful.

Upon a moral contemplation of this subject, the argument is conclusive in favor of the project now offered. The baneful effects of the numerous small stills, all over the country, is universally acknowledged. Their number ought to be lessened. The business would be rendered more easy for the collectors of the revenue, if licenses should be refused, peremptorily, to all stills of a smaller capacity than, say, thirty gallons. I should recommend such a restriction, both as salutary in its tendency and beneficial to the revenue. The government which concedes a great deal to the accommodation of the citizen, may expect in return some condescension, some conciliation on the part of the citizen. If our people in the exercise of their inventive powers, choose to modify their apparatus a thousand different ways, I see no ground of substantial justice, or of sound policy that should induce the legislature to follow them through all their meandering and devious courses. If, nevertheless, congress should not judge it safe to proceed in this way, nor feel an inclination to reform, by this radical measure, the actual irregularities, it is much to be feared no method can be adopted that will go so far to equalize the duty on the process for forming alcohol.

Hitherto I have indulged my thoughts conformably to the instructions received from the commissioner of the revenue, to devise some new method of imposing the duty, in such a way as will lay an equal burden on the materials and vessels used in distillation.

On summing up the evidence upon this part of the inquiry, the following conclusions rationally present themselves. 1st. The duty on the raw material may certainly be made as uniform as any

thing that is the subject of legislation. A distiller pays for the quantity he means to work up, and for no more. The main difficulty will be to prevent his working up more than he pays for. Yet, a due degree of vigilance, will methodize this matter tolerably well. 2d. The same remark may be applied to the fermenting vat. The capacity of this reservoir or vessel, ascertained by the gauger, will afford a rule by which the duty may be evenly and regularly estimated. But magnitude will not disclose the frequency of the charges; nor will it show how often the industry and skill of the distiller shall repeat his fermenting batches. The presumption arising from a knowledge of the quantity of materials that may be fermented at a time, and an acquaintance with the term for which a license is taken out, with some other particulars and details, will enable a tolerably correct opinion to be formed of the quantity of grain, fruits, roots, or juices intended to be distilled. The tub or vat may be rated accordingly.

The rule, thus, with all its imperfections, will be found full as good as that which refers to the capacity of the still, without knowing how frequently it is charged and discharged. For the reason stated in the commissioner's letter, I have endeavored to avoid the stationing an officer in the distillery to determine the quantity of beer, or wort; but simply to use the ascertained capacity of the mash-tub or fermenting vat, as a sort of index, to the amount of alcoholic liquor the distiller intended to prepare. To this it is probable the habits of our citizens would oppose no serious objection. The small variance that might exist in the fermenting process of different vessels will, it is believed, make no memorable difference in the proceeds. A person experimentally conversant in these proceedings would not fail to urge the importance of causing all the fermenting vessels to be constructed according to a form which the law might prescribe, or empower the revenue department to direct. 3d. The uniformity already recommended in the construction of stills, will naturally lead to an equalization of the duty upon them. When the vessels, apparatus, and utensils of one distillery shall be similar to those of another, the respective proprietors will have no cause to complain of disparity. Nor will the revenue department be puzzled, as at present, for a rule by which equal justice may be measured to all.

IV. Concerning the imposition of a duty upon the distilled product itself.

This is introduced into this report chiefly for the sake of method. Being not a part of the subject referred, it is not discussed. But if it had been proposed for my consideration, it might have been rapidly disposed of; inasmuch as other governments furnish volumes of precedent and practice in relation to it.

I have thus considered, in such way as I supposed pertinent, the four fundamental modes of equalizing the duty. But I have by no means exhausted the subject. Other modes of laying it upon the distilling process remain to be mentioned. Should congress not venture to regulate, by law, the construction of stills, nor to refuse licenses to those below a certain and defined capacity, another expedient may be tried. This consists in arranging all distillatory vessels under three heads: 1. *Stills* properly so called; 2. *Boilers*, where steam is an auxiliary; 3. *New improvements on both*, and preferred to both; of

which preference the erection should be considered as evidence.

I shall examine them separately.

I. There is no need of defining what particular apparatus, or connexion of vessels and implements, constitute a still. I take it for granted the meaning is perfectly understood by those who superintend the revenue as well as by those who prepare alcohol. It might be insisted that all the vessels coming under the character of stills, as I am now considering them, should be conformed to a special regulation. To render it as little inconvenient as possible, the regulation might go into effect at an assigned future day, say six or twelve months after the passing of the act. Until then the present rate of duty might be continued. As at present, stills ought to be subjected to the lowest rate of duty. As far as experiments warrant a conclusion, they will hereafter be continued at the most moderate tax of the three grades. It might be easy for congress to favor those persons who promptly complied with the new and improved system, by exempting such as were willing and obedient from the payment of the duty for three or six months, as an indemnity, encouragement, or reward.

I present this to your judgment as a cardinal point, under a firm persuasion that, with prudent management, the reform may be wrought in a tranquillizing manner, without oppressing, or even alarming the citizen. The proposed amendment in the system will be gradually introduced, and in the end be as favorable to the interest and comfort of the distiller, as to the uniformity of laying the duty and the ease of collecting it.

II. Boilers, as the act expresses it, are the utensils employed for the purpose of generating steam in those distilleries where wooden or other vessels are used instead of metal stills; and the action of steam is substituted for the immediate application of fire, to the materials from which spiritous liquors are distilled. I have not, as yet, been satisfied, during the short and limited time allowed by the authority under which I act, that there can be any practical distinction established between the several sorts of boilers. All of them are utensils or instruments of a similar nature. They depend upon the same principle. They are so analogous in their nature and construction, that they ought to form a distinct and separate class of cases. I, therefore, recommend that measures be taken to cause boilers to be constructed according to a prescribed rule, model, or form. They will thus be clearly discriminated from stills, and be arranged entirely by themselves. This may be done under the same provisions, *mutatis mutandis*, as for stills. It will produce uniformity, or an approximation to it, near enough for the purposes of revenue. It being understood what a boiler is, as contradistinguished from a still, and all the implements of that kind classed together, they may all be dutied upon a principle deduced therefrom, and pervading the whole class. The existing statute appears to me to be correct in deciding that boilers should pay a higher duty than stills. As far as my mind is guided by experimental assays, the present rate of a double duty is as low as the distiller ought to pay, or the government to receive.

III. But I would place in a third class, all vessels and implements for distillation varying from stills and boilers at the time of passing the law; and comprehending all improvements in distilla-

tion after the act went into operation. To this class of cases an additional amount or third rate of duty ought to attach. This augmented sum may be reasonably demanded, under a presumption that the newest method adopted is preferable to any other in use, or the distiller would not employ it. To erect and work such apparatus, would admit a construction that it possesses certain advantages. A greater quantity of spirit prepared by each gallon of such vessel's capacity, probably subjects that vessel to an increased tax. The proposal now offered will, it is hoped, serve as a reply to that paragraph of the commissioner's letter relative to "probable cases arising from new forms of distilling vessels, that may be introduced into use." The regulations of law may then follow close by on the heels of discoveries, if they do not travel *parsi passu* with them.

Thus I have endeavored to fulfil the promise I made you, by submitting to your discernment my views of a radical cure for the disorder; and, if that should be declined, of a palliative course of treatment. Some other ideas press forward with earnestness, and importune me to reduce them to writing—I gratify them, and honor them by an incorporation into this report. Read on and you will discover them.

I have attended to the commissioner's suggestions of proportioning the duty in an inverse ratio to the height the spirit has to rise from the bottom of the still. It does not appear, from experiments, that any thing could be gained by that expedient; for it would be easy to construct stills exceedingly low, and to take off the spirit a few feet from the bottom. The breadth and extent of the evaporating surface might be substituted for height in estimating the amount of liquor distilled. Besides, the dissimilar forms of the still—the different area of surface receiving caloric and exhaling vapor—the disproportionate skill and convenience for applying the fire, and several other incidents to the process, all concur to produce varying results, which are not sufficiently digested to constitute the basis of any fiscal arrangement that aims at correctness.

The means of surmounting these anomalies are comprehended in the modes of reform, proposed in the preceding part of this report, of the distilling apparatus itself. Until something of this kind shall be done, I do not perceive how there can be either an uniform or equal method of laying the duty. But that uniformity being once established in the construction of stills, will lead, of course, to uniformity in the mode of working them, and thereby an equalization of the product to be so far estimated, that, taking the several parts of the operation together, a rule may be discovered for fixing the duty in a fair and equal way upon their evaporating surfaces.

It is also suggested by the commissioner of the revenue, that, possibly, the capacity of the vessels conveying the steam, might constitute a better principle for the imposition of the duty, than the capacity of the vessel in which it is generated. I have attended to this point as minutely as I could; and have not been able to derive from it any practical rule. The main difficulty arises from the velocity of steam, like that of any other fluid in a small pipe, enabling it to transmit an equal or even a greater quantity than, under a slow movement, will be conveyed by a larger one. The diameter thus affording no safe criterion, any duty predicated upon it would, as far as my observation and

judgment go, be but a mere estimate, and a very rough one too, of the duty that a boiler ought to pay.

The intricacy of tracing the application of steam to a measure of capacity, of any kind, is increased by the constant progress of invention and discovery. The talent of our citizens is incessantly occupied in devising novel and improved methods of doing business. One of the later contrivances, and a most ingenious one too, is to carry the alcoholic vapor of the still direct into a woden vessel of clean water. The steam of the spirit soon raises the water to the boiling point. It then distils over into another vessel containing water, which being heated in like manner by the condensed steam, passes over to a succeeding one. This operation is carried on through a series of vessels, which perform the work of distillation and rectification at once. And, in the midst of all these operations, conducted by means of capacious and successive boilers, the duty is construed to attach the body of the still, or, there is a dispute; or, perhaps, a lawsuit, with the collector about it.

Experiments are likewise making to distil spirits in an apparatus exhausted of atmospheric air. By performing the operation *in vacuo* it is presumed much fuel will be saved, on account of the easier rise of vapor. The authors of this project are very sanguine in their expectation of a highly advantageous result. It is within my knowledge that attempts are making to quicken and economize the evaporating or distilling progress by the removal of atmospheric pressure. The continuance of experiments will, in time, show their bearing and importance.

The way of laying the duty upon the steam tube, when traced to its source, resolves itself into duty upon the *fire-place*; or rather into a duty upon the *fuel* consumed in the fire-place, of a distillery.

I shall offer a few remarks upon the project of laying the duties on the fuel employed in distilling spirits, before I conclude my task.

The capacity of the fire-place has been proposed as the measure of the duty. To me, the fuel actually consumed in a distillery, seems preferable. The quantity of fuel burned per month, or per year, in a distillery, can be ascertained exactly. Each cord of wood, or an equivalent in coal, may be estimated to produce a corresponding quantity of spirit. There may be small variations, according as maple, birch, beech, oak, hickory, pine, or any other wood is employed. The calculation might be made upon oak, as the most common in the United States. The average ratio between the fuel burned and the spirit produced, can be ascertained without any serious difficulty.

Fire is the agent by means of which vinous matter is turned to alcohol. If the quantity and strength of the agent could be measured, such measure would be precisely what we want. The caloric passing into the still, boiler, or other vessel, being ascertained, there would be a measure of the vapor or spirit elevated.

Fuel either contains the caloric or possesses during its inflammation, the power of extricating, of exciting, or collecting that caloric. A discovery of the mean rate at which burning fuel produces spirit, would enable a very equitable rule to be established as to the quantity of spirit distilled from the quantity of fuel consumed.

The duty might thus be laid upon the wood-pile or, if coal was employed, upon the coal-yard.—

The object is to gather money into the treasury for the privilege of burning fuel to distil spirits. The quantity of fuel could be measured without prying into the secrets of private transactions.—The bulk of the articles would prevent much concealment and fraud. The amount would be altogether an out-of-doors business. The permit may specify leave to distil as much spirit as the number of loads or cords therein mentioned could produce; or license to consume the prescribed quantity of fuel for the purpose of distilling ardent spirits.

I have thus reviewed the subject as it relates to the levying the contribution upon the raw material; upon the fermentation; upon the distillation; and upon the spirituous product. I have considered the consequences of classing the distillatory apparatus into stills, boilers, and improvements, and of duting them accordingly. I have discussed the altitude of the still, the capacity of the steam-tube, and the consumption of fuel in the fireplace. But if, after all that has been proposed, it should seem difficult to decide upon any of them, another resort, the simplest and perhaps the best of the whole, is left to the financial calculator.

This is merely to collect from each and every distillery, or individual body of distilling apparatus, a stipulated sum without regard to the magnitude or extent of the works. This sum ought to be a minimum, such as the smallest permitted might pay.

There is a striking analogy between the licenses to retail spirituous liquors and on licenses to distil them. The tax on production is the correlative to that on consumption. In the former case, no question is asked whether the retailer has a good run of custom or not; and in the latter why should the government agitate itself and torment the distiller, to find out whether he is successful in his business or otherwise? Let the treasury take a reasonable sum from each, and be satisfied.

The suppression of distilleries at home, by an undue and exorbitant duty, is a very dubious policy. The discontinuance of business by many of them, is followed by an increased importation of rum, brandy, and other distilled spirits from abroad. The treasury loses the duty of excise on the distillation; but it gains by the impost on entry. Yet the people drink the spirit. I therefore, suppose the fiscal and moral accounts are balanced.

In this posture of affairs, I have been induced to submit, whether, under existing circumstances, the sum of (twenty or more) dollars be laid upon each distilling apparatus worked within the United States, without any calculation of quantity or quality, capacity, or any thing else.

A review of the progress of improvement in this business, will show that between the years of 1790 and 1798, it was discovered, by a most ingenious citizen of Pennsylvania, how steam might be applied to heat and even to evaporate liquors; how the fluid to be distilled might be employed to condense the vapor of the spirit; how the project of a perpetual still was conceived; and how the removal of atmospheric pressure by the air-pump had been thought of. And since that time Brown and West's patent, in 1803, for distilling in tubs; that of Bernard, in 1811, and of Gamble, in 1812, for something in the nature of—improvements on the same process; and lastly, Gillespie's mode of distilling spirits by means of re-

servoirs for holding the liquids, cut out of the solid wood of large trees felled, squared and suitably excavated, for the application of fire and steam; all evince the unparalleled assiduity and indomitable perseverance with which the economy of distillation has been pursued. The ingenuity of our citizens, in this respect, deserves the warmest encomium.

But I have one other remark to offer in favor of a moderate duty on alcoholic spirit. Man is not a mere water drinking animal. Or if he is so, it is only in the states of society where ignorance or servitude prevails. Cultivation and freedom teach him the advantage of sustaining the strength of the laboring citizen by mingling some stimulant or invigorating ingredient with his draught. Wine is too dear for general use. Malt liquors are not universally congenial to the palate and stomach. Vegetable infusions, as of saffron and spruce, have but a limited demand. Cider too often offends the bowels and the kidneys by its sourness.

Our country abounds in corn and the other materials whence spirit can be drawn. A great deal more is raised than is necessary to support its inhabitants with food. There seems to be a strong plea for converting into drink that part of the grain which the people do not intend to eat. If they who enjoy liberty, will, or must, have some comfortable potation, I am satisfied that whiskey is the best. The harm to be dreaded arises, not from taking it within the bounds of health and moderation, but from swallowing too much. Against all excesses and evils of this kind, I scarcely suppose it necessary for me to bid an intelligent and virtuous people—beware.

The whole of which is respectfully submitted.
(Signed) SAMUEL L. MITCHELL.

New-York, Sept. 20th, 1816.
[To be continued.]

THE FINE ARTS.

Messrs. Van Winkle & Wiley give notice, that they have received directions from a correspondent, to pay fifty dollars to the artist who shall be adjudged by three gentlemen, or a majority of them, to be appointed by the American Academy of Arts, to have executed and exhibited at the exhibition of the said Academy, on the first day of November next, the best painting from the following description from page 17, &c. in the fourth series of numbers in the Triangle, printed by Van Winkle & Wiley, New-York, 1817.

Extract from the Triangle.

"Passing this incomparable landscape, my attention was drawn from every other object to a portrait, which occupied the western or upper part of the saloon. It was a full length picture, and was evidently designed as the leading figure of the room. For, though this gallery was a hundred yards in length, thirty in breadth, and twenty in height, it seemed equally conspicuous from every part; and to an eye but little acquainted with the fine arts it could not be mistaken for the Genius of America. But it surpassed all description. I was standing on elevated ground; a flourishing olive seemed rising on his right hand, and a princely bay tree on his left, like a towering pyramid, rose far above his head, from which the shadow fell round him as from a meridian sun, though broken and dashed, with intermissions of his golden beam.

"The genius in the form and proportions of an Apollo Belvidere, far transcended the human sta-

ture in height and power, and though he could not appear otherwise than terribly majestic, he expressed the grandest lines of perfect benignity, and excited the highest sensations of the sublime. In his countenance was a placidness and security of expression indicated by the union of power and goodness; fearless of danger and of war, yet preferring peace and tranquillity.* A dazzling robe of scarlet descended from his shoulders, partially concealing an undress of white,† and it seemed not easy to determine whether the fashion of his dress was ancient or modern.‡ On his left breast was a plate of burnished gold, surmounted with a Mosaic star of brilliants of lustre, around which was this inscription "Civil and Religious Liberty." Bearing this motto on his heart, with the robe of justice floating round him, he wore a Civic Crown composed of the olive-branch, entwined and bound with an argent fillet, on which was inscribed "Gladius corpus sed veritas mentem vulnerat.§ Near him was a stately arbour, formed by the arching branches of the elm and myrtle, interlaced with vines, and through the osier trellis of a fine summer retreat were seen a Bible and the Constitution of the United States, engrossed on parchment lying on the table.

"The Genius, who seemed recently to have been reposing there, was in the attitude of advancing forward, with his right hand laid on the hilt of a splendid sword which hung in his belt, and his eye sternly pursuing an object almost hid in impervious shades of his right; but on nearer inspection could be discovered. Huge and terrific, it appeared doubtful whether man or monster, and its dress and countenance were assimilated to the deepest shade to which it seemed anxious at this time to escape. Yet, agreeable to the vulgar idea that ghosts and goblins are always encompassed with supernatural appearances, this monster, (if a human figure can be sufficiently hideous to bear the name,) was encircled with pale and livid light, and on his breast in letters of sulphurous flame was visible the word *intolerance*.

"I rejoiced to see the hideous monster fly before the genius of my country, and thus I trust it will ever be while the favor of heaven is extended to us as a people."

The painting to remain the property of the Artist; but the donor hopes to receive a proof copy of an engraving of the piece, when executed in smaller dimensions.

* Such is the character of the American people.

† The habit usually worn by Justice in allegory.

‡ It is not easy to say whether the American genius will ultimately more resemble the Greeks, Romans, French or English.

§ The sword wounds the body—truth the mind.

|| Would to God that this picture were suspended in the vestibule of every church of Christ, or rather of every church which bears his name. Intolerance, is, indeed, a principle as weak and cowardly as it is base and cruel, its g. d efforts are always made against the defenceless, and generosity against the innocent and worthy.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE SCIENCE OF FENCING.

This is one of the oldest sciences of Roman antiquity, and made a conspicuous part of the education of the ancient nobility. It is an art of very great usefulness, and is now taught in Europe, particularly in France, with the greatest attention, as an inseparable part of a liberal education, and

yet its cultivation in this country is extremely neglected.

The Olympic, Pythian, Nemæan and Isthmian games were instituted by the ancients for the cultivation of military and manly exercises.—Then Hercules, Theseus, Castor, Pollux and other great heroes distinguished themselves for their surprising feats of strength and agility. At the same time this science was taught with the greatest attention and success, and largely contributed to the accomplishment of some of the greatest gladiatorial achievements performed at those celebrated games. Corporeal strength and activity at those times were esteemed as the most desirable attainments, they were the glory and pride of the age; and a man of weak and uncultivated strength was placed in a degraded rank of society. To the art of fencing, therefore, must be attributed, in a great degree, the admirable display of *athletic figures* in the historical paintings, now exhibited, of ancient times; and to the ancient pride of showing their powerful muscular limbs is the limner's sparingness of drapery in those paintings to be ascribed, and not to a want of modesty. But so great is the degeneracy of taste, as respects the improvement of our corporeal powers, at the present day, as a part of education in this country, that a painter would be considerably at a loss to find a man in polished society here whose muscular form would furnish a very fertile subject for the composition of a group of figures for an historical painting.

That this science contributes much to health, the expansion of the chest, the enlargement, muscularity, and beauty of the limbs, and activity and power of the whole human system, is most strikingly exemplified in every man who practises and is well skilled in the art of fencing; it also adds grace and ease to the manners of a man, as it tends to remove the *clownish awkwardness* arising from the restraint which the natural inflexibility of the muscles impose on the motions and free exercise of the body and limbs.

This improvement in manners must necessarily follow; because, the dexterous fencer is obliged, in an assault, to throw himself into a variety of very graceful and commanding attitudes.

It is very uncommon to see a Frenchman with an ill shaped lubberly figure—and why? because the art of fencing is incorporated with their system of education. In order to form a more judicious apportionment between the hours of labour and recreation, among men of sedentary lives, and whose health requires much more exercise than their profession (particularly the law) or occupation yields them, I would suggest, with great confidence of its utility, an animated play with the foils, once or twice a day, instead of any other mode of recreation. One hour out of every twenty-four, spent in this way, taken from the hours of business, would be quite sufficient to produce health and an invigoration of the constitution. The same salutary effects, produced to a lawyer, for instance, from riding, walking, &c. (though extremely doubtful whether these or any other causes would produce the same good effects) would require 2, if not 3, hours out of every 24, to be deducted from the hours of labour and added to the hours of recreation, which certainly is a great loss in the economy of time.

The inseparability of mind and body, and the reciprocal aid they afford each other, evidently shows, that the beautiful fabric of the mind may

receive very great strength and support from the body, when its natural powers are scientifically cultivated and enlarged by skilfully learning the art of fencing.

To fence with the left hand as well as the right, is much more easily learned than is generally supposed, and its advantages are incalculable. It equalizes the size, strength, activity and beauty of the left as well as the right side of the human figure. Let us suppose, for a striking illustration of its usefulness, an American frigate should lay herself alongside of a British frigate, with a design to take her by boarding, and both perfectly equal in every respect, except that the American boarders had been taught to use the sword or other weapon in the left hand as well as the right—then, suppose 30 out of 100 boarders, on each side in the engagement, should have the right arm rendered useless by a wound, what would be the result? Why, the British frigate's boarders would be reduced to seventy, and the Americans, by changing the weapon from the right hand to the left, would keep up their complement of one hundred useful men. The consequence of such an advantage would, of course, be an easy victory for the American frigate. In a sword engagement an expert fencer is undoubtedly equal to two common men.

After the preceding narration of the many excellent tendencies that a cultivation of this science has, it is to be hoped that it will no longer remain neglected by us. The time and expence requisite to bestow on its acquisition is trifling, when compared with its innumerable benefits.

[National Advocate.]

JUDICIAL DECISION.

At the Superior Court in Windham county, Connecticut, holden on the first Tuesday of January, 1817—Present,

HON. ZEPHANIAH SWIFT, Chief Judge.

HON. JEREMIAH G. BRAINARD, } Judges.

HON. CALVIN GODDARD,

Walter Hough, } Action of trespass for taking a
vs. Charles Taintor, } horse.

The defendant justified the taking of the horse in question, in consequence of his being collector of the 7th collection district. The facts admitted by the pleadings were, that the plaintiff was the owner and keeper for use of a one horse wagon, with the harness thereof, and that the same was procured for the purpose, and was commonly used in the employments of husbandry, and for the transportation of goods, except four instances during the year when it was used as follows: 1st, the plaintiff and wife rode in the same three miles on a visit—2d, the plaintiff rode in the same three miles to attend public worship—3d, the plaintiff's boy rode in the same four miles to school, and the plaintiff's son rode in the same four miles to a regimental review, where he was obliged to attend. At all other times the wagon was used by the plaintiff in the employments of husbandry and for the transportation of goods. The pleadings terminated in a demurrer, so as to present the questions of law to the court that have arisen in relation to this sort of carriage being subject to the duty under the laws of the United States. It was contended by the plaintiff that a wagon of this description was not a carriage within the true

spirit of the law. That the word *exclusively* would admit of construction, it did not purport absolute universality, that the wagon having been constantly used in husbandry during the year with four exceptions only, should still be considered as having been exclusively employed in husbandry. That the law in its provisions was contrary to the general policy and welfare of the Union—that the collector was made a judge to determine to which class the carriage belonged, and thereby had the power to put money into his own pocket as the result of his own decision—and lastly, that the distress and sale was without warrant.

On the part of the defendant it was contended that congress had the power to lay and collect taxes—that this was a statute regulation, and that which the congress of the United States had thought proper to adopt, that there was no dangerous or improper provisions in the statute, and that there was no necessity in the collector's having a warrant other than his *commission* under the hand of the President and seal of the United States. That the word *exclusively* was adopted by the legislature so as to preclude all doubt and uncertainty. The cause was argued and committed to the court on Friday. On Tuesday following the chief judge pronounced the opinion of the court, in favor of the defendant, upon all the points submitted to them, and found for the defendant to recover his cost.

Parish, S. Perkins, and Judson for plaintiff.

W. Perkins and Bolles for the defendant.

* The words of the act of Congress are, "Every carriage with the harness used therefor kept for use which shall not be exclusively employed in husbandry or for the transportation of goods."

TOPOGRAPHICAL.

In the first number of the 2d and 3d volumes of the National Register, I requested communications from gentlemen of leisure on the geology, mineralogy, zoology, botany, &c. of our country, to aid in the compilation of a gazetteer of the United States. Subsequent to the 1st of January, I have addressed circulars to most of the post towns throughout the country—many of which have been answered in a very satisfactory manner, and almost every mail brings me something valuable on the subject; but as materials cannot be too copious, for a work of this kind, I renew my invitation to gentlemen, who have not already done so, to forward to me such information as may be at their command, calculated to aid in the prosecution of the work. For the following valuable information I am indebted to JOSEPH CHARLESS, esquire, of St Louis, Missouri Territory, who has been polite enough to address it to me through the columns of his respectable paper.

From the Missouri Gazette, of the 24th May.

By almost every mail I receive letters from various sections of the Union, replete with questions as to the face of the country, soils, climate, diseases and productions, as also the mineral and vegetable productions of this territory and Illinois. To meet the wishes of those correspondents, I have solicited in vain, several literary gen-

men, who have travelled in this and the adjoining territory, to furnish me with such topographical or statistical information as would enable me to gratify some of my inquirers.

The editor of the National Register, has requested answers to the following questions, on the above subject; to him I address the subjoined hasty sketches.

[Editor M. G.]

[Here follow the queries proposed.]

(No. I.)

St. Louis, May 24th, 1817.

MR. NEAD,

Sir—In the following attempt, I am conscious you will receive nothing more than a faithful detail of facts, obtained from observation and correct information.

The soil of this territory, is diversified according to position. The Mississippi and Missouri bottoms, (as they are termed) from a mile to 25 miles in breadth, consist of alluvion, made up of decayed vegetable substances and the uliginous sandy matter thrown up by the immense floods of the Missouri and Mississippi. Immediately in the rear of these extremely fertile bottoms, a belt of high land, or ridges of limestone, form a barrier to the greatest swell of waters; and the interior extending to the line of the Osage purchase, is almost a regular succession of hill and dale, affording in many places several miles of level prairie; the whole face of the country is richly coated with grass, which by its annual burning has covered it with a rich soil from six to twenty inches deep. Even the tops of the hills which skirt the tributary streams are covered with verdure; industrious farmers are only wanted to render the country a granary for the world. Tobacco, hemp, flax, wheat, and other small grain, as well as vegetables of every description grow luxuriantly. European travellers who are acquainted with the culture of liquorice, declare that they never have seen a soil so admirably adapted to the culture of that article as our alluvions. It appears that the roots of the liquorice plant strike in Europe four or five feet deep, and that the soil is prepared to that depth previous to planting; here a preparation of that kind is not necessary, as the alluvion is equally rich twelve or fifteen feet deep. In the upland the clay beneath the soil is said to be highly impregnated with marl, it dissolves when exposed to the air like lime, and those who have ploughed deep and mixed it with the soil, declare they have made good crops.

The diseases incident to this country are the same as in other countries of similar latitude; sudden changes of the weather are most complained of. In the low lands, contiguous to ponds and marshes, intermittents and agues prevail in autumn. These evils can be easily overcome, for ponds and marshes are not general, and where they exist very little labor is required to drain them.

LEAD is the most abundant mineral yet found in these territories: (Missouri and Illinois.) A belt of it encircles the country forming a crescent to the Mississippi, from Arkansas, above the frog bayou to the heads of White and Black rivers, the St. Francis, Osage and Meremek, thence across to the head waters of Salt, Jefferson, le Moine, to the Ouisonson, below Prairie du Chien, and extending from thence to Lake Michigan. This belt is found to be in a zigzag direction. Lead ore is found within five miles of St. Louis, while

the most extensive veins are found on the head waters of the St. Francis, Meremek and Osage rivers. It is thought that lead ore is more rich and abundant in that region between the Mississippi and Lake Michigan.—Borax, Zinc, and several other minerals are found in Washington Co.*

On the Meremek (a river which falls into the Mississippi, 15 miles below this place, and navigable for small craft during the spring 100 miles up) Iron ore is found in abundance. Rich lead ore is also found in many places on its banks. Silver ore has been found there as well as on the head waters of the Gasconade.

I have seen copper assayed from mineral found on the Illinois in Madison, Co. Manganese is abundant on both sides of the river—and I have heard that plumbago and bismuth, or metals resembling them, have been found. It is said antimony has been found by a gentleman of this neighbourhood, who is waiting for the opening of the land-office to purchase the land which contains the mineral. In truth this country may as well be called the country for minerals, as well as the country of flowers.

Coal is abundant in Missouri and Illinois, on and near navigable waters—There are 4 coal banks N. W. and E. of St. Louis. Plaster of Paris is obtained from the Missouri, 4 or 500 miles up, where it may be had in abundance; a vessel of 60 tons may be loaded with it at the spot and safely navigated to St. Louis. Limestone is most general throughout this country—Flint is found in the hills between the St. Francis and the following considerable streams which fall into Big Black river, viz. Little Black, Currents, Fouché Thomas, Eleven Points, Spring river and Strawberry river, and west to White river—No quarry has yet been opened of marble, slate or soapstone—Marble equal to the finest Italian has been found in this county; several pairs of mill-stones, equal to *Lawal-hill stone*, have been dug out of Mr. Darby's quarry in Bonhomme township, St. Louis Co. twenty miles west of this place. Soap stone is found near Salt river, in St. Charles Co. about 80 miles above the mouth of the Missouri.

Salt springs are numerous in every county in this territory, particularly in Howard County, (commonly called Boon's Lick,) this county is situate on both sides of the Missouri, 200 miles from its mouth, (county seat, Franklin.) The Le Mine river, which empties itself into the Missouri, on the south side, is said to be as salt as the waters of the Chesapeake. Two furnaces of about 40 kettles each, furnish salt for 2000 families, who inhabit the country above.

* Potosi the seat of justice of that Co. 60 miles S. W. of this place, is a flourishing town, of 100 families, grown to importance by the immense quantities of lead mineral raised in its neighbourhood.

FOREIGN SUMMARY.

SPAIN.

The following paragraph may serve to show the impression upon the continent, as to the negotiations between England and Spain, with relation to Spanish America. It was received from Madrid via Paris and London:

"Our department for foreign affairs has been for some time much occupied. Important negotiations with England are publicly talked of, and an arrangement is spoken of with our insurgent

colonies, through the mediation of that power.—It is also said, that negotiations are on foot respecting the Floridas, and that we are to cede those countries to the United States, on receiving a suitable indemnity."

Madrid April 3.—Whole bands of robbers infest the neighborhood of this city. All the neighboring villages have troops stationed to prevent their depredations. Great exertions are made to prevent the evils which attend the peace. Our government has news from Mexico and Peru, but nothing transpires. Orders are given for troops to be sent out.

ITALY.

Rome, March 29.—It is said the Holy See and the English have made arrangements with the Grand Ottoman Court for the exercise of the Catholic religion in the Turkish provinces. Something else is thought at bottom.

Florence, April 5.—We have many reports from Sicily. It is said the English have excited as great discontents in that island, as they have in India.

TURKEY.

Constantinople, Feb. 25.—Marines, amounting to 20,000 have left this place, and the artillery is much increased. News from Romelia, says they are supplying their fortresses with men and provisions for defence by sea and land. The Grand Vizier has his council often with him.

ALGERS.

Algiers, March 1.—All here is in great quiet, and nothing threatens to prevent its continuance. On the 4th Feb. a Danish vessel arrived, in virtue of a treaty with that power, with ship timber, spars, tar and sail cloth. The Dey has armed three brigs, all the force he has, and they are ready for sea.

ORONOKO.

We are indebted to the *Salem Register* of the 21st inst. for the following interesting news from the Oronoko.

By the brig *Augusta*, Lee, which arrived yesterday from Angostura,* which place she left on 20th May, we have the following interesting intelligence:—

That on the 10th of March, the royalists, about 2000 strong, under Morales, who had proceeded from Angostura, to attack the Patriots at a place called the Missions, 100 miles below Angostura, were totally defeated and cut to pieces, only six men escaped including Morales, and two other officers. All who were not killed on the field of battle were afterwards shot, and among them, Sheruty, formerly governor of Angostura.

After the battle, the patriots, under Gen. Pial, approached Angostura, where they threw up a breast work, upon which the guns of the fort could not be brought to bear, and immediately commenced firing upon the town within half musket shot, and the firing had been continued day and night. They had made several attacks upon the place, but without great loss on either side. One of the officers had gone for cannon, more effectually to attack the works.

The Patriots had completely surrounded the place and the inhabitants and garrison were reduced to the most wretched and pitiable condition for want of provisions. Great numbers had

actually died of starvation. Horses, mules, jackasses, dogs, &c. had been consumed, and the Governor himself, had actually paid three dollars for a *Cat*!

A great number of the inhabitants had left Angostura, and fifteen hundred, principally women and children in the most pitiable condition, sailed the same day the *Augusta* left, in Spanish vessels. The men were not allowed to depart. Our informant thinks it impossible that the place could have held out more than two or three days after he left, unless relieved in some unexpected manner.

Guayana was still in possession of the Royalists; it was strongly fortified, and no probability of its being taken except by starvation.

Fitzgerald, the Governor of Angostura, who had been arrested and sent to Caracas, on suspicion of treachery, had been ordered back, and was still in command of the place. The most sanguinary measures were adopted at Angostura in regard to suspected persons. Eight men were shot at one time about the first of May, on suspicion of being friendly to the revolutionary cause.

The forces of the patriots were estimated at from four to six thousand men, all mounted, and they had complete possession of the surrounding country.

The *Tiger* of this port, was the only American vessel at Angostura; she carried out a small quantity of provisions, which were immediately taken possession of by the Government.

DOMESTIC SUMMARY.

NEW-HAMPSHIRE.

By a statement of the receipts and expenditures of the state prison of this state, from June, 1816, to June, 1817, it appears that the former has been just about sufficient to cover the latter.

The receipts were,	
From profit on labor,	\$ 4,054 06
Cash from spectators,	75 22
Notes due the institution,	3,017 81
	<hr/>
	\$ 7,147 09

Besides a considerable stock of manufactures and provisions remaining on hand.

The expenditures were,	
Hospital expenses,	\$ 150 00
Interest on money borrowed,	74 81
Expenses of joiner's shop,	180 74
Provision,	2,385 92
Clothing, &c. of convicts, board and wages of watchmen,	3,939 92
Repairs and additional buildings,	971 11
	<hr/>
	7,702 50

The government of this state are now erecting a state house at Concord. Many of the convicts of the state prison are employed in preparing the stone for this building.

JEREMIAH MASON, of the United States senate, from New-Hampshire, has resigned his seat in that body. He is a federalist, and it is stated, will be succeeded by a republican.

MASSACHUSETTS.

Deaf and Dumb.—The legislature of this state have passed a resolution, which was approved on the 12th instant, requiring the select men of the several towns throughout the state, and the assessors of plantations, to ascertain the number of deaf and dumb persons in their respective towns.

* Angostura, a city in South America, nearly 400 miles up the river Oronoko. It is the only port of entry on the river. It stands on a high point of land, and commands a beautiful and extensive prospect of the river and country. The place contains about 1000 houses, built of stone. (*Morrie's Gaz.*)

and plantations, and report the same to the secretary of the commonwealth, on, or before the first Wednesday of the next session of the legislature; specifying the age and sex of such persons, and their situations, and that of their near relatives in point of property.

June 18.—The governor this day, by and with the advice and consent of his council, and the request of both branches of the legislature, prorogued them to the second Wednesday of January next.

The legislature, at their late session, passed an act incorporating the *Massachusetts Steam Navigation Company*.

RHODE-ISLAND.

The Legislature of this State adjourned on Saturday last, to meet in South Kingston on the last Monday in October next. Previous to the adjournment, both houses adopted an act ceding Castle Island to the United States, who, it is said, have appropriated 1,000 dollars for the erection of a beacon on the island, and for securing the buoys and stakes at the entrance of Bristol harbor. A tax of 10,000 dollars, for state purposes was ordered to be assessed and collected, and paid into the general treasury, on or before the first day of December next. A charter of incorporation was granted to the Scituate and Foster Academy Company, and an act passed, authorizing said company to raise 6,000 dollars by lottery, for the purpose of erecting a building to be devoted to the public worship of God and to the instruction of youth.

NEW-YORK.

Sheep-Shearing.—Two persons have certified on oath, that the fleece of a merino buck belonging to a Mr. Sutton, of the town of Waterloo, in this state, had been sheared on the 23d May, and weighed fourteen pounds.

June 18.—Col. Wm. M'Ree of the engineers, and the chief engineer of the late northern army, has lately returned from Europe, whither he went immediately after the close of the late war, for the purpose, it is stated, to acquire military science and information.

The government of the United States has purchased of Richard Hartshorne, esquire, what is commonly called Sandy Hook, a very large and valuable peninsula, extending from the Portland Highlands to the sea, a distance of seven miles. On this large tract of land there is a quantity of valuable cedar, which, in time, must become useful in ship building. The sum paid, we understand, was 20,000 dollars.—*N. Y. Gaz.*

Canal Loan.—We understand the house of Prime, Ward, & Sands, have taken the loan for 200,000 dollars of the commissioners of the Canal Fund, for the state 6 per cent. stock at par.

DELAWARE.

Two men, Palmer and Toy, have been publicly whipped and branded, at Wilmington, for kidnapping negroes, of which they had been convicted.

VIRGINIA.

Taylor's Arator.—We understand from the Petersburg Intelligencer, that a new edition of this work is speedily to be put to press, by Mr. J. M. Carter, of Philadelphia. We have heard so high a character of this book from gentlemen whose agricultural intelligence is justly respected, that we venture to recommend it to the particular attention of our country friends, as a work abounding with useful information in every department

of husbandry, and as the best practical treatise to be found upon the cultivation of the Virginia soil.

NORTH CAROLINA.

Hemlock.—Another instance of a young man's mistaking *hemlock* for *angelica* occurred a few weeks since in Bladen county.—The youth, a short time after eating the hemlock fell as a person taken with a fit of the epilepsy, his eyes fixed and mouth full of froth. His life was saved by pouring down his throat half a wine glass of *Cologne Water*, and as much spring water.—A monkey, to whom a piece of the Hemlock had been given, died before it was known he had eaten it.

SOUTH-CAROLINA.

By a census recently taken by order of the honorable city council of Charleston, it appears that there are resident inhabitant within the city—

Whites,	11,229
Free people of color,	1,200
Slaves,	11,515

Total, 23,944

City Gaz.

LOUISIANA.

Extract of a letter from the Indian Agent at Natchitoches to the commanding officer on the frontier, dated

INDIAN AGENCY,

Natchitoches, March 25, 1817.

SIR—The enclosed exhibits the names, the number of warriors, and the geographical position of the several Indian tribes connected with this agency, taken from the best source of information I am able to obtain.—Those marked thus* are supposed to be under the influence of Tooling and the Caddo chief.

On his (the Caddo chief's) return from St. Antonio, not long since he delivered a speech to the Haines and Natchitoches to the following effect.

"You recollect when our old friend Tooling told us not to permit the Americans and their Indians to come into this country, they would kill all our game. We were fools and would not believe him; now you see his words were true; the Americans and their Indians have killed all our deer and buffalo, and it is difficult to get meat for our families—I am just returning from St. Antonio, and my advice is that you have your bows and arrows ready.

"Our old father the king of Spain will soon be here and drive all the Americans to their own country; and when any of their traders come among you, if you cannot get goods at your own prices, seize and carry them to St. Antonio."

Similar talks have been given on Red River, and some of our traders have been mal-treated; their licences have been torn, and they were threatened to be driven out of the country: The Indians said it was Tooling's and the Caddo chief's orders to do so.

I have also seen a letter signed MURPHY, who is said to be the Spanish Consul at New-Orleans, to the chief of the Appaches, inviting him to Havanna without a moment's delay.

Those simultaneous circumstances induce a belief that the Spaniards are attempting to engage the attention of the Indians for some further operations in this quarter.

* This enclosure, for obvious reasons, it is deemed improper to publish at this moment.

EDITOR'S CABINET.

Diplomatic Corps.—Conjecture is busy at present as to the gentleman most likely to succeed Mr. Adams, who is now daily expected in the United States, as American minister at the court of London. One newspaper has mentioned the name of the honorable RICHARD RUSH; at which we are not at all surprised, as that gentleman stands deservedly high, with his fellow citizens, for talents and discretion. Believing, as we do, that Mr. Rush, if he wishes it, will receive a diplomatic appointment, we had rather conceived that he was destined for the court of St. Petersburg, and that Mr. PINKNEY would be transferred to that of St. James: not that we have the least objection to see Mr. Rush sent to London: but there is a sort of etiquette in this business, which government, in some sort, and except on extraordinary occasions, is obliged to adhere to. The court of St. James ranks first among those of Europe; and Mr. Pinkney being a kind of veteran in the service, would seem to claim a preference. Under the supposed diplomatic arrangement, the question is, who will be the attorney general? The names of several gentlemen have been mentioned; but none, we think, with greater likelihood of truth than WALTER JONES, esquire, of this city, at present United States attorney for the District of Columbia, a gentleman whose ability entitles him to great consideration, and who has hitherto been too little known to his country.—The President, as is very proper, keeps his thoughts on these points to himself and his confidential friends. The coming winter, however, will, we presume, give to the administration, at home and abroad, what it has not hitherto experienced under President Monroe, a full and fixed character.

Unpleasant Dispute.—We regret to find there is a pamphlet in circulation, from Captain HEATH, late of the United States marine corps, containing charges against Commodore PERRE. As the altercation cannot, however, be now suppressed—having got into the newspapers as well as into a pamphlet—we shall, in the next number of the *National Register*, insert Captain Heath's charges against the Commodore, and will wait, with anxiety, the vindication of the latter, which we hope may be complete and satisfactory.

The American Monthly Magazine and Critical Review.—A new work under this title, published for H. BIGLOW and O. L. HOLLEY, esquires, has been recently commenced in the city of New-York. We have received and read the 2d number of it. The work, in the original and more solid

parts of it, is not, in our opinion, very promising. Most of the observations are common-place; and in some instances the expression is remarkably affected and frivolous: Take an example:

"The virus of rebellion may, perhaps, be expelled by *alteratives*, but can never be extirpated by *cautery*."—Page 81.

This is an attempt to illustrate a political fact by a medical and surgical operation: but it means nothing at all; for *alteratives* and *cauteries* are never, as a thing of course, applied in the same cases.

Take another example: it is that of a common-place:

"There is a natural affinity between music and poetry." &c.—Page 113.

The editors appear to succeed best in the criticism of minor poetry, and in the *pic-nic* review of the performers on the New-York stage; and yet it would be difficult to determine the poetical merits of Tom Moore from what they say in relation to the former, or the character of any New-York player from their strictures in relation to the latter. The industry manifested in the collection of materials, is, however, highly praiseworthy; and, perhaps, as a printer's boy once said of his master, when they get a little more used to it they may write better, and produce, from this embryo attempt, a full grown and vigorous performance.

Tour of the President.—On the 20th instant the President of the United States arrived at New-Haven, and was received with the usual congratulations and public manifestations of joy, which has attended him elsewhere on his journey. He was announced by a federal salute from Fort Hale, and the artillery on shore, and on board the ship *Morgiana*, lying at West Haven. On his landing he was met by the committee appointed for that purpose, and welcomed to the state of Connecticut. On Saturday he visited the gun-factory of Eli Whitney, and the chemical laboratory, library, mineralogical cabinet, and philosophical chamber of the college. At 12 o'clock he reviewed the military. After receiving all the adulation the citizens of New-Haven had prepared for him, he set out on Monday morning, the 23d instant, for Hartford. By the 4th of July, it is conjectured, he will be in Boston.

THOMAS M'KEAN, esquire, one of the worthies who signed the Declaration of our Independence, died at Philadelphia on the 24th instant.

This number concludes the third volume of the *National Register*. The index will be prepared with all possible diligence and forwarded to subscribers.

END OF VOLUME III.

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